

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2008**

**STATE OF UTAH**

**SCHOOL & INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION**

675 EAST 500 SOUTH, SUITE 500

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

**OIL & GAS LEASE AUCTION BRINGS \$3,490,000**

The January 2008 Oil, Gas, and Minerals lease auction of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration grossed almost \$3.5 million. The proceeds from the lease auction go to the trust funds of Utah's public schools and the other participating beneficiaries.

The winning bidders leased the various parcels for the exploration and production of minerals – mostly oil and gas. In addition to the money raised at the auction, the new lease holders will pay yearly rental fees and royalties on any mineral production from the properties.

More than 35,000 acres were leased for oil and gas properties. The average lease price was \$96.41 per acre. The highest winning bid was for more than \$1,400 per acre.

Here is a summary of the auction:

- 35,700 acres of oil and gas properties were leased for a total of \$3,443,539.26
- 5,750 acres of metalliferous minerals properties were leased for \$5,750.00
- 1,905 acres of tar sand properties were leased for \$40,005.00
- 640 acres of potash properties were leased for \$2,560.00

The total revenue from all properties leased was \$3,491,854.26.

The next mineral lease offering will be in April 2008.

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration is an independent state agency that manages 3.4 million surface acres and 4.4 million mineral acres of Utah trust lands for the financial benefit of Utah's public schools and 11 other public institutions.

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